AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Microspheres useful for embolization, which comprise crosslinked polyvinylalcohol, wherein said microspheres (a) have a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm, (b) are substantially spherical, and (c) ~~are substantially uniform in size and shape, (d)~~ are sterile ~~and (e) are in the form of a dry powder~~, and wherein aldehydes on said microspheres are neutralized by an amino-containing agent.

2. – 3. (Cancelled).

4. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein the diameter of said microspheres is in the range from about 50 μm to about 1,000 μm.

5. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein said microspheres further comprise a cell adhesion promoter.

6. (Previously Presented) The microspheres of claim 5, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl (CM) dextran, collagen, DEAE dextran, gelatin, glucosaminoglycans, fibronectin, lectins, and polycations.

7. (Original) The microspheres of claim 6 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen and DEAE dextran.

8. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein said microspheres further comprise a marking agent.

9. (Original) The microspheres of claim 8 wherein the marking agent is selected from the group consisting of a dye, an imaging agent and a contrasting agent.

10. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1, further comprising an anti-angiogenic agent.

11. (Currently Amended) An injectable sterile suspension suitable for embolization, which comprises: (a) ~~sterile crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres that are substantially spherical, substantially uniform in size and shape, and have a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm~~ the microspheres of claim 1; and (b) a suitable liquid carrier~~, wherein aldehydes on said microspheres are neutralized~~.

12. – 14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein the diameter of the ~~crosslinked polyvinylalcohol~~ microspheres are in the range from about 50 μm to about 1,000 μm.

16. (Currently Amended) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein the ~~crosslinked polyvinylalcohol~~ microspheres ~~in the injectable suspension~~ are comprised of from about 0.5% to about 20% crosslinked polyvinylalcohol by weight in hydrogel form.

17. (Currently Amended) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein ~~said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol~~ the microspheres further comprise a cell adhesion promoter.

18. (Previously Presented) The injectable suspension of claim 17, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen, DEAE dextran, gelatin, glucosaminoglycans, fibronectin, lectins, and polycations.

19. (Currently Amended) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein ~~said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol~~ the microspheres further comprise a marking agent.

20. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 19 wherein the marking agent is selected from the group consisting of a dye, an imaging agent and a contrasting agent.

21. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11, further comprising an anti-angiogenic agent.

22. – 55. (Cancelled).

56. (Previously Presented) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are comprised of from about 0.5% to about 20% crosslinked polyvinylalcohol by weight in hydrogel form.

57. (Previously Presented) The microsphere of claim 5, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is a natural biological cell adhesion promoter.

58. (Previously Presented) The microsphere of claim 5, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is a synthetic biological cell adhesion promoter.

59. (Previously Presented) The injectable suspension of claim 17, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is a natural biological cell adhesion promoter.

60. (Previously Presented) The injectable suspension of claim 17, wherein the cell adhesion promoter is a synthetic biological cell adhesion promoter.

61. – 68. (Cancelled).

69. (Currently Amended) ~~The microspheres of claim 1,~~ Microspheres useful for embolization, which comprise crosslinked polyvinylalcohol, wherein said microspheres (a) have a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm, (b) are substantially spherical, (c) are substantially uniform in size and shape, (d) are sterile and (e) are in the form of a dry powder, wherein aldehydes on said microspheres are neutralized by an amino-containing agent.

70. (Previously Presented) The microspheres of claim 69, wherein the amino-containing agent is an aminoalcohol.

71. (Previously Presented) The microspheres of claim 70, wherein the aminoalcohol is selected from the group consisting of Tris, 2-aminoethanol, aminosorbitol and glucosamine.

72. (New) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the amino-containing agent is an aminoalcohol.

73. (New) The microspheres of claim 72, wherein the aminoalcohol is selected from the group consisting of Tris, 2-aminoethanol, aminosorbitol and glucosamine.

74. (New) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are substantially uniform in size.

75. (New) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are substantially uniform in shape.

76. (New) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are in the form of a dry powder.

77. (New) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein the microspheres are substantially uniform in size.

78. (New) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein the microspheres are substantially uniform in shape.